Preface

In response to a November 1984 request from the Office of Research and Development and the Office of Ground Water Protection of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Research Council established :he Committee on Ground Water Quality Protection. The committee was isked to identify several state and local ground water protection programs ind to review these programs, focusing on prevention of ground water con-:amination with respect to their scientific bases, performance over time, idministrative requirements, and their legal and economic frameworks. The resulting report summarizes the committee's review of case studies and dentifies those significant technical and institutional features that show jrogress and promise in providing protection of ground water quality. It is loped that these features can be used as practical models for others who are ittempting to develop and enhance state and local ground water protection >rograms. Chapter 4 contains a number of useful examples that can aid federal, tate, and local officials, elected representatives, and citizens in improving pround water protection programs. Its focus is on the future. Today, much >f the nation's attention is concerned with correcting ground water degra-lation resulting from historic practices. However, the nation is facing con-inued economic development, population growth, and acceleration in the levelopment of new products and technology that make it imperative that governmental programs focus on prevention. The state and regional pro-jrams selected for review emphasized planning and regulatory aspects such is information gathering, classification systems, direct and indirect land use